

REMARKS

Claims 1, 15, 29 and 33 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 5 and 19 have been canceled. Applicant reserves all rights with respect to the applicability of the Doctrine of Equivalents.

An Information Disclosure Statement is also submitted with this amendment.

Claim Objections

The Examiner has stated that in claim 1, the term "a signal at the non-controlling input follows a fall of signal at the controlling input after a fall delay" is unclear. The Examiner has stated that a signal at the non-controlling input cannot follow a fall of a signal at the controlling input after a fall delay and has requested clarification.

Applicant refers to the Specification, which states:

In FIG. 3A(a), the system 300 includes the NAND gate 201 and the AND_NC gate 302. As illustrated, the AND_NC gate 302 receives the controlling input 202 as $I_{\text{and_nc}}$ 304 and provides its output $O_{\text{and_nc}}$ to the non-controlling input 204 of the NAND gate 201. In FIG. 3A(b), $I_{\text{and_nc}}$, $O_{\text{and_nc}}$, and output 206 characteristics are shown. As illustrated, $I_{\text{and_nc}}$ and $O_{\text{and_nc}}$ signals have a substantially simultaneous rise. As these signals rise (see, e.g., the left half of FIG. 3A(b)), the output 206 will fall after an output falling delay 308 (see also FIG. 2A(a)). Once $I_{\text{and_nc}}$ and $O_{\text{and_nc}}$ falls, the output 206 will rise after an output rising delay 310 (see also FIG. 2A(b)). Accordingly, the system 300 of FIG. 3A(a) can determine both the rising and falling output delays for the NAND gate 201. Also indicated is a non-controlling fall input delay 306 between the time $I_{\text{and_nc}}$ and when $O_{\text{and_nc}}$ falls (see, e.g., the right half of FIG. 3A(b)). It is envisioned that the fall delay 306 be selected such that it is sufficiently longer than the output rising delay 310. Otherwise, if the $O_{\text{and_nc}}$ signal falls prior to the output 206 rising, the rising output delay for the output 206 may not be accurately determined.

(Specification, p. 7, ¶36 and ¶37) (emphasis added). Thus, the signal ($O_{\text{and_nc}}$) at the non-controlling input follows a fall of signal ($I_{\text{and_nc}}$) at the controlling input after a fall delay.

Double Patenting

Independent claims 1, 15, 29 and 33 are rejected on the ground of nonstatutory double patenting over claim 1 of U.S. Patent. No. 6,654,940 by Gupta ("Gupta").

Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 15, 29 and 33, as amended, are independent and distinct from the invention claimed in claim 1 of Gupta.

In claims 1, 29 and 33, applicant claims that signals at the controlling and non-controlling inputs rise substantially simultaneously on a first edge without any finite delay. Applicant respectfully submits that Gupta's claim 1 does not teach that signals at the controlling and non-controlling inputs rise substantially simultaneously on a first edge without any finite delay, as claimed.

In claim 15, applicant claims that signals at the controlling and non-controlling inputs fall substantially simultaneously without any finite delay. Applicant respectfully submits that Gupta's claim 1 does not teach that signals at the controlling and non-controlling inputs fall substantially simultaneously on a first edge without any finite delay, as claimed.

Applicant also submits that the remaining claims of Gupta also do not cover the subject matter of claims 1, 29 and 33. As such, applicant respectfully submits that because the independent claims 1, 15, 29 and 33, as amended, are independent and distinct from the invention claimed in Gupta, claims 1, 15, 29 and 33 would not extend the right to exclude already granted in Gupta. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the nonstatutory double patenting rejection.

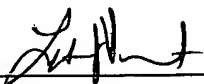
It is respectfully submitted that in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the rejections and objections have been overcome.

If there are any additional charges, please charge them to our Deposit Account No. 02-2666. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: May 4, 2006



Lester J. Vincent
Reg. No. 31,460
Tel.: (408) 720-8300

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90025-1026